Amendments to the Specification

Please amend as follows the paragraph that begins at line 25 on page 22, and ends at line 6 on page 23:

The envelope-expressing cells can be incubated for approximately one hour, for example, under physiologic conditions, with a concentration effective to disrupt the formation of one or more structural intermediates necessary for viral fusion and entry of P-17 (SEQ ID NO:6), P-18 (SEQ ID NO:1), a peptide comprising P-17 or a fragment thereof, a peptide comprising P-18 or a fragment thereof, a peptide comprising a combination of P-17 and P-18, a peptide comprising a combination of fragments of P-17 and P-18, a peptide functionally similar to P-17 and/or P-18 or an epitope-tagged peptide, and then treated with sCD4 and a lysis buffer such as 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.4. The concentration of the epitope-tagged peptide would be approximately two-fold higher than the non-tagged version. A specific peptide may be P-18-GGG-**YPYDVPDYAGPG** (SEQ ID NO: 87), wherein the epitope tag is in bold.

Please amend the second and third full paragraphs on page 63 as follows:

In an assay employing the same format (against HIV-1_{MN}), sera from gp233 and gp234 were titrated. As can be seen in FIG. [[4A]] 7A, these animals displayed the expected dose-related anti-viral activity. Guinea pigs 233 and 234 had a 50% reduction in virus-induced cell killing at 1:40 and 1:37 dilutions, respectively.

In order to confirm these results, a neutralization assay employing a different target cell and endpoint analysis was conducted. In this format, the CEM T-cell line was inoculated with 200 $TCID_{50}$ of the HIV-1_{MN} isolate. The reduction in viral replication for gp233 and gp234 at a serum dilution of 1:10 is shown in FIG. [[4B]] 7B.